

Congressman Childers Votes to Spur Small Business Growth

Bill Will Improve Entrepreneurial Development, Establish Veterans Program

May 21, 2009

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) joined a majority of his colleagues last night in passing legislation that promotes small business growth and helps create jobs by modernizing entrepreneurial development. The Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act (H.R. 2352) reauthorizes and modernizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) entrepreneurial development programs, provides small businesses with new tools and resources to reflect the changing needs of small firms, and creates a new assistance programs for veterans.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and their success is critical to creating jobs and getting our economy back on track," said Congressman Childers. "I'm a small businessman myself, and I understand the their importance to combating unemployment and promoting local economic development, as well as the challenges these businesses face during today's tough times. This legislation will ensure that small businesses have the resources they need to not only survive the current downturn, but also expand and create new jobs."

There are 216,700 small businesses in Mississippi, which employ more than half of the state's non-farm workforce. Nationwide, small businesses create 60 to 80 percent of new jobs.

The Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act includes the following measures:

- **Establishment of Veterans Business Center Program.** Authorizes funding for the SBA to expand entrepreneurial development assistance to veterans by increasing outreach facilities across the country; establishing specialized assistance programs; and updating the institutional structure designed to customize policies and programs targeted to the sector.

- **Modernizing the Small Business Development Center Program.** Authorizes the development of specialized assistance programs at Small Business Development Centers, which are responsive to the issues facing entrepreneurs today, and updates operational procedures to improve the delivery of services through the centers.
- **Educating Entrepreneurs through Today's Technology.** Increases access to entrepreneurial development services through the use of communication technologies to facilitate the creation of high-quality distance learning resources through public-private business development experts.
- **Broadening the Women's Business Centers Program.** Improves and expands business development resources for women entrepreneurs by increasing counseling and training facilities for this sector, particularly targeting underserved areas; enhancing the operating procedures for the Women's Business Program; and mandating a more targeted approach to the National Women's Business Council's research program.
- **SCORE Program Improvements.** Increases the effectiveness of the SCORE program by establishing new performance and benchmark requirements for the agency's business mentoring resources.
- **Expanding Entrepreneurship Act of 2009.** Updates the structure of the SBA's entrepreneurial development portfolio by requiring increased coordination and planning by program operators.

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